

Following, please find a MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIMS 22 and 25 showing all changes made relative to the previous versions of those claims –

22. (Amended) A modified starch composition [for use in papermaking] comprising:

a degraded starch,

an inhibition agent in an amount of about 0.001% to about 0.05% by weight of dry starch,

and

a cationization derivative.

25. (Amended) The modified starch composition of claim 24 wherein the starch is degraded to a water fluidity of about [40] 35 to about 65.

REMARKS

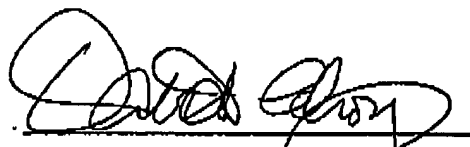
Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-18 are rejected. Claim 1 is canceled was canceled in Applicants' Reply of 4 February 2003. Claims 2-13 and 15-18 were amended in Applicants' Reply of 4 February 2003. New claims 19-29 were added in Applicants' Reply of 4 February 2003. Claims 22 and 25 are amended with this supplemental Reply. New claims 30 and 31 are added with this Reply. No new matter is submitted with these Amendments.

Claim 22 has been amended to further broaden the scope of the claim. Claim 25 has been amended to be consistent with Claim 9 directed towards the product-by-process. New claims 30 and 31 add further limitations to independent composition claim 22 found on page 7, lines 20-25 of the present Specification as filed. It is believed that these amended and new claims are novel and non-obvious over the cited art for those reasons already provided in Applicants' 4 February 2003 Reply. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider these amended and new claims together with Applicants' Reply of 4 February 2003.

It is believed that the above amendments and remarks also overcome the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as indicated herein above. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims is believed to be in order, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

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